

scribes that we are to table a report containing the names and ranges of compensation of the persons concerned. Last week, for positions for which there is no salary range, we gave the minimum and maximum rate of pay for employees appointed by order in council, for whom there is no specific salary range. We therefore had the option of not publishing those figures because there was no salary range, as required under Section 13(1) of the Act, but in order to respect the intent of this particular Act and the Access to Information Act, we decided to give the maximum and minimum figures I just mentioned, and I think my hon. colleague has no grounds for complaints. The Government, in fact, bent over backwards in tabling such a detailed report, and if my colleague would take the trouble to read the report from beginning to end, he would realize that it contains far more information than the Government was obliged to provide under the provisions of the Act concerned.

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[English]

CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

REJECTION OF SASKATCHEWAN CABLE COMPANIES' APPLICATION

Mr. Jack Masters (Thunder Bay-Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Communications.

An Hon. Member: Turn on the mike.

Mr. Masters: Mr. Speaker, I sympathize with the operator, having come out of that discipline, in his difficulty finding the right switch.

According to an article in *The Globe and Mail* recently, it was indicated that the rejection by the CRTC of an application by Saskatchewan cable companies to receive American network signals from Canadian Satellite Communications Inc. would have a serious detrimental effect on that company. Would the Minister please comment on the impact of this decision on CanCom, and on the equalization of broadcasting services in general?

Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, the interpretation put on the CRTC decision by *The Globe and Mail* is indeed an erroneous one. I think it is important that it be restated quite clearly that the Government's thrust for extension and equalization of viewing opportunities across the country remains a high priority for the Government and that the Government sees CanCom as one of the major vehicles to help attain this objective.

I would also like to add that the rejection of the application by the CRTC was based on deficiencies in the application. My understanding is that the Saskatchewan cable operators will be applying anew for this service.

Oral Questions

● (1440)

INCOME TAX ACT

NON-PAYMENT OF TAXES BY HIGH INCOME PEOPLE

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance who, along with his Government colleagues, has been asking Canadians to make sacrifices over the last two or three years, in digging us out of the recession. He has also imposed additional taxes upon most Canadians. However, at the same time, Revenue Canada tells us in the last few days that this year there were more winners of the golden loophole award for taxation than ever before; 239 Canadians earning over a quarter of a million dollars per year did not pay a single cent in income tax in 1981. Will the Minister explain to the people of Canada, as he is calling for equality and a fair level of sacrifice by all Canadians, why his Government allows this to occur with our taxation system?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I refer my hon. friend to the budget which I announced last April 19. In that budget, if he remembers, he will have noticed that we geared the benefits of tax reductions in favour of low income people. For instance, workers will be able to benefit from a significant increase in terms of the tool allowance going from 3 per cent to 20 per cent. That will mean that several hundreds of thousands of Canadian workers will be benefiting from this kind of advantage. We did the same thing with the extension of the Child Tax Credit and with the provision for child care expenses. I could go on enumerating a number of benefits which have been geared to low income people.

As far as the specific point raised by the Hon. Member is concerned, he knows that, depending upon what happens in a particular year, where particular individuals have suffered for instance large losses either on the equity market or in other ways such as in their business operations, they are entitled to claim those losses against their income. In a particular year we may have an individual with high income not paying taxes, but this individual will be called upon to pay taxes as time goes on and as the losses he can claim disappear.

Mr. Riis: Of course those who lose their homes do not get similar types of tax breaks.

REQUEST FOR ABOLITION OF CANADIAN OWNERSHIP SPECIAL CHARGE

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, considering that the Minister is asking Canadians to support a consumer-led recovery, would he consider in the months ahead removing the Canadian Ownership Special Charge and leaving the federal tax reduction as it is, to allow Canadians to retain \$7.4 billion in their pockets to participate in the recovery program?